

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 106886 TOSEC 110562

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CHEROKEE FOR THE SECRETARY FROM EAGLEBURGER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.), OGEN

SUBJECT: TEXAS

1. AS PREDICTED DETAILS OF THE TEXAS PRIMARY, INCLUDING
POPULAR VOTE, ARE STILL LACKING. HOWEVER, BAD NEWS IS
CLEAR. IT CONTINUES TO APPEAR THAT REAGAN HAS TAKEN ALL

96 DELEGATES, ALTHOUGH MOST RECENT REPORTS INDICATE THAT
HIS PLURALITY HAS DROPPED FROM 3 - 1 TO 2 - 1. IN THE
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CARTER HAS DONE ALMOST AS WELL AGAINST
BENTSEN.

2. IT WILL STILL BE SOME HOURS BEFORE WE CAN GIVE YOU ANY
MEANINGFUL ANALYSIS OR REASONABLY PRECISE BREAKDOWN ON THE
VOTE. NEVERTHELESS SEVERAL POINTS ALREADY SEEM CLEAR:

(A) MOST IMPORTANT FROM YOUR POINT OF VIEW, WITH A DEFEAT
OF THIS MAGNITUDE THERE IS NO WAY THAT ANYONE CAN RATION-
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ALLY ARGUE THAT THE AFRICAN TRIP OR THE LUSAKA SPEECH WERE

DECISIVE IN FORD'S DEFEAT. I VERY MUCH SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT WE WILL HEAR A GOOD DEAL ABOUT THE IMPACT OF REAGAN'S GENERALIZED ATTACKS ON OUR FOREIGN POLICY AS AN IMPORTANT ELEMENT IN THE DEFEAT.

(B) CLEARLY THE CROSSOVER WAS SUBSTANTIAL AND HAD SEVERAL INTERESTING CONSEQUENCES. FIRST, IT OBVIOUSLY WAS A MAJOR FACTOR IN REAGAN'S VICTORY. SECOND, IT WAS ALSO AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN CARTER'S VICTORY, SINCE IT PROBABLY DREW VOTES TO REAGAN THAT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE GONE FOR BENTSEN OR WALLACE. THIRD, AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN BENTSEN'S DECISIVE PRIMARY VICTORY OVER AN EXTREME CONSERVATIVE OPPONENT. HERE AGAIN BY DRAWING THE RIGHT WING VOTES INTO THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY IT TOOK VOTES AWAY FROM BENTSEN'S OPPOSITION.

(C) NO MATTER HOW SIGNIFICANT THE CROSSOVER VOTE MAY HAVE BEEN, AND ALTHOUGH THE STATISTICS ARE STILL LACKING TO MAKE A POSITIVE JUDGMENT, IT SEEMS INCONCEIVABLE THAT REAGAN COULD HAVE WON AS HANDILY AS HE DID UNLESS HE TOOK A MAJORITY OF THE REPUBLICAN VOTES IN THOSE AREAS WHERE THEY ARE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR (E.G., DALLAS AND HOUSTON SUBURBS).

3. FYI CONGRESSMAN ALAN STEELMAN OF DALLAS WON THE GOP NOMINATION TO FACE BENTSEN IN NOVEMBER.

4. THE IMPACT OF THE TEXAS VOTE ON INDIANA REMAINS TO BE SEEN; NEVERTHELESS IT IS GOING TO BE A DIFFICULT WEEK SINCE IT IS VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT REAGAN WILL WIN ALABAMA AND GEORGIA.

5. WE WILL GET YOU AN ANALYSIS OF TEXAS AS SOON AS WE CAN BUT IT WILL BE AT LEAST SEVERAL MORE HOURS BEFORE WE CAN DO SO. SISCO

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